(d) the process followed for entrusting the mining to the JV;

(e) the salient details of technological expertise essential for exploration of coal in this reserve *vis-a-vis* those/coal mining experience possessed by JV partners;

(f) in what manner the same compared to those of Coal India Ltd. (CIL); and

(g) the reasons for keeping CIL out of this venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) As per the Geological Report (based on Regional Exploration) prepared by Geological Survey of India, the Barakar formation of Deocha-Pachami area contains four thick seam-zones besides many local coal seams. The seam-zones vary in thickness from 9 metre to 80 metre containing non-coking, high moisture (1.2% to 7.5%), high ash (22.9% to 52.4%) coal of C to G grade mostly in 300 to 1200m depth range. The 'indicated' reserve of coal has been assessed as 2026 million tonnes. The area is covered by 3 to 5 layers of basalt flows (Rajmahal traps) having total thickness of about 52 to 195 metres.

(b) to (d) Deocha-Pachami coal block has been identified as one of the captive blocks and is yet to be allocated. As such there is no question of formation of Joint Venture.

(e) Exploration for coal deposits of Deocha-Pachami Block will be a routine coal exploration except for drilling through thick cover of basalt which is a very hard rock.

(f) to (g) Do not arise in view of reply given to part (b) to (d) above.

Theft/illegal mining of coal

1869. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the extent of theft/illegal mining of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): As theft/illegal mining of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely, it is not feasible to specify the exact quantum of coal stolen and losses incurred on account of the same.

However, as per regular raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids by Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Governments, the combined loss of 31635 tonnes (approx.) coal valuing Rs. 4.16 crore (approx.) in 2007-08 had occurred due to theft and illegal mining. In 2008-09 (till Oct.'08), the loss reported was to the tune of 18,540 tonnes coal valuing approximately Rs. 2.5 crore.

Allocation of coal from WCL

1870. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion for allocation of coal to a State from the Western Collieries Ltd. (WCL);

(b) whether it is a fact that Gujarat State is allocated coal from the eastern coal belt;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government is considering to allocate coal to Gujarat from WCL; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) The allocation of coal, including coal allocation from Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), on long-term and short-term basis is made by Standing Linkage Committee, an Inter-Ministerial Committee, keeping in view the availability of coal, logistic arrangements for evacuation of coal, qualitative requirement as per Ministry of Environment and Forest norms etc.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The power utilities situated in Gujarat are not being allocated coal from the Eastern belt.

(d) and (e) Except one power utility, namely Sikka Thermal Power Plant located in Gujarat, the main sources of supply are South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) which is the next nearest source for Gujarat, apart from Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) and some portion of coal supplied from Western Coalfields Limited (WCL). Further, as the power stations of Gujarat are located more than 1000 KMs away from Coalfields, to meet Ministry of Environment and Forest stipulations, coal of lower ash content from the nearest coalfields of Korea-Rewa of SECL for arriving at desired blending mixed within stipulated ash content is being supplied. Keeping in view the existing coal commitments of WCL and with no perceptible growth prospect in coal production in coming years at WCL, it may not be feasible to consider any further rationalization of source from WCL for power plants of Gujarat at this stage.

Coal mining job

1871. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal mining job is being outsourced by Coal India and other plants in public sector as well as private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the leasehold area of the coal to different parties have been identified and demarcated properly to prevent illegal mining; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Coal India Limited is outsourcing some activities of coal production to achieve better economics of operation in different areas. The activities outsourced by CIL (in some mines of its subsidiary companies) include the winning of coal, overburden removal and transportation of coal.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The leasehold area of the coal under CIL and other parties have been identified and demarcated properly.